United States
Environmental
Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

Solid Waste
and Emergency
Response (5101)

EPA 500-F-98-149
May 1998

Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Fort Wayne, IN

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101) | Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 150 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to $200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Fort Wayne for a Brownfields Pilot. The Pilot targets the Bowser Pump Plant site within the Hanna-Creighton neighborhood (population 2,786), one of the most severely distressed areas in the state. The population in this neighborhood is 89% African American and suffers from a 45% poverty rate, 25% unemployment rate, and one of the highest crime rates in the city. The Hanna-Creighton neighborhood is located within a state-designated Urban Enterprise Zone.

The 12.5-acre Bowser site is an abandoned, tax-delinquent property with a history of industrial activities dating back 100 years. Bowser & Co., an oil pump manufacturer, went out of business in the 1950s, and subsequent owners abandoned the site in 1995. The site currently includes a former iron foundry and a transformer building, as well as machine shops, plating facilities, and a manufacturing complex. These past industrial uses negatively impact the Hanna-Creighton neighborhood today. Dilapidated housing and infrastructure with poor access to transportation corridors, coupled with potential environmental contamination from past industrial activites, combine to inhibit cleanup and redevelopment.

PILOT SNAPSHOT

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Date of Announcement: May 1998

Amount: $200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets a brownfields property in the Hanna-Creighton neighborhood, one of the most severely distressed neighborhoods in the state.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
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(312) 886-5284

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/

OBJECTIVES

The city's brownfields program wants to ensure that investments in urban brownfields redevelopment are sustainable. The city intends to achieve this objective by building neighborhood capacity and initiating "smart growth" policies that encourage brownfields development and discourage urban sprawl. The city will use the Pilot to assess contamination at the Bowser site, and involve the community in cleanup and redevelopment planning. The state Department of Environmental Management will assist with assessment and future cleanup of this brownfields area. In addition, private and non-profit commitments have been secured. Pilot funds may also be used to assess other area brownfields.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting environmental assessments at the Bowser Pump Plant site;
- Informing and educating Hanna-Creighton neighborhood residents about the Pilot's plans to assess the site, and encouraging community involvement in subsequent cleanup and redevelopment; and
- Developing cleanup and redevelopment plans for the site that reflect neighborhood needs.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.